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WEDNESDAY
DECEMBER 16, 1953

I went to see Foster Dulles at the residence this morning to suggest a change in the proposed statement by the President regarding the results of the NATO conference. I then went to the Palais de Chaillot at the request of Mr. Taviani, the Italian Minister of Defense. He is a Deputy and was formerly Under Secretary at the Italian Foreign Office. I ran into Prime Minister Pella, who is to talk to Foster today. Taviani told me ~~that~~ Pella wanted him to inform me on the present Italian parliamentary attitude toward EDC. In short, nothing can be done about it while the Trieste problem is pending. He expressed approval of the Secretary's press conference, saying ~~that~~ it was helpful to have American policy made clear in such a distinct fashion.

Commander Kenneth Cohen, whom I had known well when he was Deputy in the British SIS, called on me. He is now representing the English United Steel Company as observer of European affairs.

Ben Moore came over and we put the final touches to our long rough draft of a possible note to the French Government on EDC. We are delivering it tonight to Livy Merchant to take to Washington for consideration there.

I spent an hour in Doug MacArthur's office reading the copious reports on [redacted] the Bermuda Conference. They were most interesting.

We had dinner tonight as guests of the Dulleses at 2, Avenue d'Iéna. The Bidaults, the Plevens, Edgar Faure, the Jacquinots, the Alphands and René Mayer were there as well as Foster's Cabinet associates and other American officials. Also, Pug Ismay and his wife.

Georges Bidault is now a designated candidate for the presidency. Jacquinot would like the office and everyone is excited about the prospect of the election procedure which begins tomorrow.

The Dulleses, Humphreys, and Wilsons left tonight for the airport and will take off for Washington.

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